

and open falsehood of an apostle. He is now carried to the judgment of the civil governor, by whom the decision is referred to the people, who loudly demand that he should be exposed to the most painful and humbling of all deaths, and the governor, convinced all the time of his innocence, orders him to be crucified. All parties take their part in the scene. The soldiers scourge him ; and as he moves along the streets of that city which had heard his discourses of unparalleled wisdom, and witnessed his miracles of astonishing power, the multitude cover him with infamy. It is amidst derision that he is nailed to the accursed tree. His dying agonies move no compassion. One of the thieves crucified along with him reviles him, as a greater malefactor than himself. His prayers, breathing of divine compassion and melting love, are answered back by reproaches and scorn. Where else can such concentrated wickedness be met with ? Blindness and darkness of mind, unbelief in spite of overwhelming evidence, ingratitude for unnumbered favours, injustice, perjury, profanity, malignity, unappeasable revenge,—and all this against the meekest of all men—all this against God who is blessed for ever. It might seem as if God had never been so insulted and defied. We wonder not that the earth should have trembled and shuddered, as if desirous to cast forth such wickedness from its bosom. We wonder not that the sun should have hid his face as unable to look on such a scene, more horrific than the most wicked which he had seen in all his unwearied rounds. But it was at the very place at which man was most dishonouring God that his representative was glorifying him. Where man was exhibiting the most appalling wickedness, there his surety was giving the most signal display of goodness. Where man, breaking loose from all restraint, was abandoning himself to open rebellion, there his substitute was

becoming obedient even unto death. Where the wildest passions that ever stirred the human heart were raging uncontrolled, *there* one in our own name and nature was giving the most moving display of a tenderness which could not be ruffled, and of a love which could not be quenched. Where sin abounded, *there* righteousness did much more abound. The representative is lifted high upon the cross, that he might become a spectacle, and in the view of all, men, in the view of wondering angels, and in the view of God, glorify God wherein he had been most dishonoured.